

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2421

INFO AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

S E C R E T BANGKOK 5853

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, MARR, CGEN, TH, CV

SUBJECT: CAMBODIAN EVACUEES

REF: (A) BANGKOK 5634; (B) BANGKOK 5502; (C) STATE 71720;
(D) STATE 75219; (E) BANGKOK 5779

SUMMARY: AS CAMBODIAN EVACUEES ARE BEGINNING ARRIVE
BANGKOK, URGENTLY REQUIRE DEPARTMENT'S GUIDANCE RE
ONWARD MOVEMENT. END SUMMARY

1. EVEN PRIOR TO IMPLEMENTATION OF FINAL PHASES OF
EAGLE PULL, SOME CAMBODIAN EMPLOYEES OF USG WITH
FAMILIES AND SOME WHO MIGHT FALL IN KEY INDIGENOUS
CATEGORY HAVE ARRIVED BANGKOK VIA US GOVERNMENT AIR-
CRAFT (MOSTLY SO FAR VIA USAID AIRCRAFT TO BANGKOK.)
CAMBODIAN ORPHANS ARE ALSO ARRIVING. RTG HAS BEEN
EXTREMELY COOPERATIVE, EVEN IN CASES THOS CAMBODIANS
WHO LACK DOCUMENTATION, AND IS ISSUING THEM ALL
VISAS FOR 7-DAY STAY IN THAILAND.

2. SEVEN-DAY VISAS OF THE FIRST CAMBODIANS TO
ARRIVE ARE ALREADY ABOUT TO EXPIRE. AS VISAS
EXPIRE AND WE (HOPEFULLY WITH ASSISTANCE OF
CAMBODIAN EMBASSY) SEEK THEIR RENEWAL, AND
PARTICULARLY AS LARGER NUMBERS OF CAMBODIANS ARRIVE

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IN THAILAND, RTG WILL WANT TO KNOW WITH INCREASING

INSISTENCE WHAT PLANS WE HAVE FOR ONWARD MOVEMENT.

3. WHILE IT IS TOO SOON TO SAY WITH CERTAINTY, WE ASSUME CONSIDERABLE PROPORTION OF CAMBODIAN EVACUEES WILL WANT TO GO TO US. SOME WHO ARE ALREADY HERE HAVE APPLIED FOR US VISAS. SEEMS PROBABLE THAT ORDINARY IMMIGRANT VISA PROCESSING WILL NOT RPT NOT PROVE WORKABLE SOLUTION TO PROBLEM.

4. EMBASSY INTENDS PROCESS NORMAL NIVS AND IVS FOR ALL WHO MAY QUALIFY EITHER THROUGH PREPLANNED STUDY, OR AS DEPENDENTS OF ALIENS ALREADY IN US, OR AS IMMEDIATE RELATIVES OF AMCITS. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE GUIDANCE SOONEST ON WHAT MEASURES CAN BE TAKEN FOR THOSE NOT ENTITLED NORMAL NIVS OR IVS, I.E., CAN ARRANGE-MENTS BE MADE FOR CONDITIONAL ENTRY UNDER 203(A)(7) FOR THOSE WHO APPEAR TO BE REFUGEES, AND UNDER WHAT CONDITIONS. ANTICIPATE CONSIDERABLE NUMBER WITHOUT TRAVEL DOCUMENTATION THOUGH CAMBODIAN EMBASSY BELIEVES IT MIGHT BE ABLE ISSUE LAISSEZ PASSERS FOR SOME. STILL UNABLE DETERMINE WHAT, IF ANY, SUCCESS WE MAY HAVE IN OBTAINING VIETNAMESE TRAVEL DOCUMENTS FOR THOSE VIETNAMESE REFUGEES FROM CAMBODIA NOW IN BANGKOK.

5. NUMBERS OF CAMBODIANS MIGHT WISH PROCEED OTHER DESTINATIONS THAN US, ESPECIALLY FRANCE. RTG WILL HOLD US RESPONSIBLE FOR THEIR DEPARTURE ALSO, IF DELIVERED HERE BY US. IS DEPARTMENT CONTACTING POTENTIAL RECEIVING COUNTRIES TO ARRANGE FOR THEIR ADMISSION?

6. DEPARTMENT WILL HAVE SEEN REF E ASKING FOR ADDITIONAL FUNDING. WHILE AMOUNT REQUESTED WILL TIDE US OVER FOR THE PRESENT, YET FURTHER FUNDS MIGHT BE NEEDED, ESPECIALLY IF FAST ONWARD MOVEMENT TO FINAL DESTINATION IS NOT ARRANGED.

7. THE SOONER WE BEGIN TO MOVE SOME CAMBODIANS ON OUT OF THAILAND, THE LESS DIFFICULTY WE WILL HAVE
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IN OBTAINING THE CONTINUED COOPERATION OF THE RTG IN THIS AND POSSIBLY SUBSEQUENT EVACUATION OPERATIONS. AS NOTED ABOVE, MOREOVER, AMONG GROUPS WE HAVE EVACUATED FROM PHNOM PENH ARE SOME VIETNAMESE NATIONALS, AND RTG MUST BE EXPECTED TO SHOW PARTICULAR INTEREST IN THEIR REMOVAL.

8. DEPARTMENT IS REQUESTED PROVIDE GUIDANCE

SOONEST.
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